

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 06325 180006Z

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S E C R E T AMMAN 6325

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR PARA 4)

FOR ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652: XGDS-8

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: JORDAN HAWKS

1. SUBSEQUENT TO LAST REPORT TALKED AGAIN WITH RIFAI. HE HAS SEEN REPORT OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER ON TICKER AND WANTS TO ISSUE A STATEMENT HERE. TEXT WHICH HE READ ME, WHICH HAD BEEN CLEARED WITH KING IN AQABA HE SAID, BASICALLY TOOK NOTE OF FACT THAT DEAL WOULD GO THROUGH.

REITERATED POINTS IN PRESIDENT'S LETTER ABOUT FIXED SITES, NON TRANSFER TO MILITARY COMMANDS, AND DELIVERY SCHEDULES AND SAID JORDAN OBJECTS TO ANYTHING WHICH DOES NOT GIVE THEM DELIVERY AT TIME THEIR TROOPS ARE TRAINED AND READY TO USE HAWKS.

2. I TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS CHANGING GROUND RULES ON US. PREVIOUS DELIVERY SCHEDULE HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY JORDAN. ISSUE WAS WHETHER WE PREPARED TO TRY TO WORK OUT SOMETHING TO MEET THEIR NEEDS IN FUTURE. ANYTHING WHICH HE SAID FROM HERE COULD STILL CAUSE REJECTION OF AGREEMENT BY CONGRESS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT COULD NOT HAPPEN NOW THAT CONGRESS REPORTEDLY DROPPED RESOLUTIONS OPPOSED TO SALE. I SAID HE AND WE COULD NOT COUNT ON THAT IF JORDAN SAID SOMETHING EXTRAVAGANT NOW. THEY SHOULD CONSIDER SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT "RESERVATIONS ON JORDAN SIDE", POSSIBLY KEYED TO DELIVERIES, BUT AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE. RIFAI THEN SAID IF DEAL

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DOES NOT GO THROUGH THEY WILL HAVE TO OBJECT TO ALL THE POINTS IN

THE LETTER. I ASKED HIM TO HOLD UP UNTIL I TALKED AGAIN WITH WASHINGTON AND HE AGREED.

3. AFTER TALKING WITH ATHERTON, I TOLD HIM THAT WE WERE EXPECTING A MESSAGE SHORTLY WHICH WE FELT WOULD SATISFY THEIR CONCERN ON DELIVERY.

IT WOULD BE A CATASTROPHE IF THEY COULD NOT WAIT UNTIL IT CAME. RIFAI AGREED TO WAIT.

4. CLEARLY ANY MESSAGE ON DELIVERIES WILL HAVE TO BE FAIRLY FORTHCOMING TO BE HELPFUL. AS SUGGESTED TO ATHERTON, INCLUDING SOMETHING ABOUT TRYING TO WORK DELIVERIES CLOSE TO TIME THEIR TROOPS WILL BE TRAINED WILL HELP. WE BELIEVE THAT TROOP TRAINING MAY WELL TAKE NINE TO TWELVE MONTHS FOR FIRST BATTERIES. AS A PACING ITEM IT GIVES US GOOD CONTROL SINCE SOME OF TRAINING FOR ALMOST ALL OF BATTERIES WILL TAKE PLACE IN US, AND PLACES ARE SCRAPE AND SUBJECT TO OUR ALLOCATION. JORDAN MILITARY ALSO WILL NOT PUSH FOR GETTING BATTERIES BEFORE THEY CAN REALLY MAN THEM.

5. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, BECAUSE MESSAGE TO CONGRESS AT LEVEL OF PRESIDENT, IT WOULD HELP HERE IF MESSAGE TO KING COULD BE AT SAME LEVEL.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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